WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A search system for searching design asset information to find information, which a user has privilege to access and which is requested by the user, and for providing the user with the privileged and requested information, the search system comprising:

a first memory for storing the design asset information;

a processor for retrieving information, which the user has privilege to access, from the design asset information; and

a second memory for storing the retrieved privileged information.

2. The search system according to claim 1, wherein the first memory includes a first database for collecting the design asset information and a second database for collecting access control information used to set access privileges to the design asset information, the processor refers to the access control information to retrieve the privileged information from the first database, and the second memory includes a third database for collecting the privileged information.

3. The search system according to claim 2, wherein the access control information includes information of access privilege groups for setting the access privileges to the design asset information and information for defining at least one of the access privilege groups to which the user belongs, and wherein the third database is generated for each of the access privilege groups.

4. The search system according to claim 2, wherein the third database is generated when the user starts a session and

is held until the session is terminated.

    5.   The search system according to claim 2, further comprising:

5   at least one server including the first database, the second database, and the third database; and

        at least one client computer connected to the server through a network;

        wherein the user inputs a search query in the client

10   computer, the client computer sends the search query to the server, the server acquires design asset information that matches the search query from the third database, and the server provides the acquired design asset information to the client computer.

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    6.   The search system according to claim 5, wherein the design asset information is IP catalogue information that includes management information, substantial data, and category classification information of IP catalogues, wherein

20   the processor refers to the access control information to retrieve the management information, the substantial data, and the category classification information of IP catalogues, which the user has privilege to access, and wherein the third database includes a first retrieved information database for

25   collecting the retrieved management information, a second retrieved information database for collecting the retrieved substantial data, and a third retrieved information database for collecting the retrieved category classification information.

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    7.   The search system according to claim 6, wherein the server searches the first retrieved information database for the management information of IP catalogues that match the search query of the user and provides the management

information of the matched IP catalogues to the client computer.

8.   The search system according to claim 6, wherein the
server searches the second retrieved information database for
the substantial data of IP catalogues that match the search
query of the user and provides the substantial data of the
matched IP catalogues to the client computer.

9.   The search system according to claim 6, wherein the
server searches the third retrieved information database for
the category classification information of IP
catalogues that match the search query of the user and
provides the category classification information of the
matched IP catalogues to the client computer.

10.   A system for searching design asset information
comprising:
    at least one server computer; and
    at least one client computer connected to the at least
one server computer, wherein the server computer includes:
        a first memory for storing the design asset
        information; and
        a processor for retrieving information, which a user
        has privilege to access, from the design asset
        information and generating a retrieved information
        database of the retrieved privileged information when the
        user logs in to the server computer from the client
        computer, wherein, when the user inputs a search query in
        the client computer and sends the search query to the
        server computer, the server computer searches the
        retrieved information database for privileged information
        that matches the users query and provides the matched
        privileged information to the client computer.

11. The search system according to claim 10, wherein the retrieved information database is held from when the user logs in to the server computer to when the user logs out from the server computer.

12. The search system according to claim 10, wherein the user belongs to at least one group, wherein the privileged information is information, which the group the user belongs to has privilege to access.

13. The search system according to claim 10, wherein the first memory includes an original database for collecting the design asset information and a control database for collecting access control information of the design asset information, wherein the processor refers to the access control information to retrieve the privileged information from the original database.

14. The search system according to claim 13, wherein each piece of the design asset information includes an index and substantial data, and wherein the control database includes a definition database defining a group to which the user belongs, a catalogue access privilege database defining groups having privilege to access the index, and a substantial data access privilege database defining groups having privilege to access the substantial data.

15. A method for searching design asset information stored in a memory, the method comprising the steps of:
   retrieving information, which a user has privilege to access, from the design asset information when the user logs in to a server computer from at least one client computer;
   generating a retrieved information database by collecting

the retrieved privileged information;

searching the retrieved information database, when the user inputs a search query through the client computer, for the privileged information that matches the search query; and

5 providing the matched privileged information to the client computer.

16. A program for searching design asset information stored in a memory to run a computer, the program comprising
10 the steps of:

retrieving information, which a user has privilege to access, from the design asset information when the user logs in to a server computer from at least one client computer;

generating a retrieved information database by collecting
15 the retrieved privileged information;

searching the retrieved information database, when the user inputs a search query through the client computer, for the privileged information that matches the search query; and

providing the matched privileged information to the
20 client computer.

17. A program storage device accessible by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for searching design asset
25 information stored in a memory to run the computer, the program comprising the steps of:

retrieving information, which a user has privilege to access, from the design asset information when the user logs in to a server computer from at least one client computer;
30 generating a retrieved information database by collecting the retrieved privileged information;

searching the retrieved information database, when the user inputs a search query through the client computer, for the privileged information that matches the search query; and

providing the matched privileged information to the client computer.